

Tom Horne
Superintendent

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Thursday, April 15, 2004

**ARIZONA SCHOOLS CHIEF TOM HORNE TO KICK OFF ACADEMIC PEP
RALLY AT SUNNYSLOPE HIGH SCHOOL – 69,000 SOPHOMORES
STATEWIDE TO TAKE AIMS MATH APRIL 22**

PHOENIX (Thursday, April 15, 2004) – Arizona State School's Chief Tom Horne on Friday, April 16 will participate in an academic pep rally with over 500 students at Sunnyslope High School. The purpose of the pep rally is to address freshman and sophomores on the importance of passing the AIMS math test the following week on April 22, when Arizona sophomores will be taking the test for the first time and must pass the test to graduate in 2006.

Approximately 69,000 Arizona sophomores will take the AIMS math test next week, of those, 41,000 are in Maricopa County and 366 attend Sunnyslope High School.

Horne has emphasized there will be no further postponements of the AIMS test requirement for high school graduation. This year's sophomores (class of 2006) by passing a reasonable test will have demonstrated that they have the knowledge and skills expected of a holder of a high school diploma. Never again will Arizona graduate a student who cannot read his or her own diploma.

**WHO: ARIZONA SCHOOL'S CHIEF TOM HORNE TO HOST
ACADEMIC PEP RALLY AT SUNNYSLOPE HIGH
SCHOOL**

**WHERE: SUNNYSLOPE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
35 WEST DUNLAP AVENUE
PARKING FOR MEDIA EAST LOT**

WHEN: FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2004

TIME: 1:45 – 2:35 P.M.

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